

In the Claims:

Please replace claims 1, 7, 8, 27-30, 35, 38, 42, 43, and 46 with the following amended versions thereof:

1. (Amended) A cylindrical filter of a high accuracy composed of non-woven fibrous agglomerates and comprising at least two layers of a pre-filtration layer and a precision filtration layer disposed in the direction of filtration, said pre-filtration layer being formed with a non-woven fabric, in which at least a part of the fibers are bonded to each other at their contact points by heat treatment, wherein the diameter of all or part of the fibers constituting said non-woven fabric in said pre-filtration layer becomes gradually smaller toward the direction of filtration, said precision filtration layer comprising one or more layers of non-woven fabrics, and the diameter of fibers which account for 10% by weight or more of the fibers in said one or more layers of the non-woven fabrics in said precision filtration layer being smaller than the diameter of the fibers having a smallest diameter in said pre-filtration layer.

7. (Amended) The filter of a high accuracy according to claim 1 wherein a ratio of a smallest diameter to a largest diameter of fibers in the non-woven fabric of said pre-filtration layer is 1:2 to 1:10.

8. (Amended) The filter of a high accuracy according to claim 1 wherein a ratio of the diameter of fibers in one of the non-woven fabrics of said precision filtration layer, which comprises fibers having a diameter smaller than that of fibers having a smallest diameter in said pre-filtration layer, to a smallest diameter of the fibers in said pre-filtration layer is 1:1.1 to 1:20.

27. (Amended) The filter of a high accuracy according to claim 12 wherein a ratio of a smallest diameter to a largest diameter of fibers in the non-woven fabric of said pre-filtration layer is 1:2 to 1:10.

28. (Amended) The filter of a high accuracy according to claim 13 wherein a ratio of a smallest diameter to a largest diameter of fibers in the non-woven fabric of said pre-filtration layer is 1:2 to 1:10.

29. (Amended) The filter of a high accuracy according to claim 12 wherein a ratio of the diameter of fibers in one of the non-woven fabrics of said precision filtration layer, which comprises fibers having a diameter smaller than that of fibers having a smallest diameter in said pre-filtration layer, to a smallest diameter of the fibers in said pre-filtration layer is 1:1 to 1:20.

30. (Amended) The filter of a high accuracy according to claim 13 wherein a ratio of the diameter of fibers in one of the non-woven fabrics of said precision filtration layer, which comprises fibers having a diameter smaller than that of fibers having a smallest diameter in said pre-filtration layer, to a smallest diameter of the fibers in said pre-filtration layer is 1:1 to 1:20.

35. (Amended) The filter of a high accuracy according to claim 12, wherein the non-woven fabric, other than the non-woven fabric in said prefiltration layer, comprises glass fibers.

38. (Amended) A cylindrical filter of a high accuracy composed of non-woven fibrous agglomerates and comprising at least three layers of a pre-filtration layer, a precision filtration layer, and a support layer disposed in the direction of filtration, said pre-filtration layer being formed with a non-woven fibrous agglomerate prepared by a melt-blow process, and the diameter of all or part of the fibers constituting said non-woven fibrous agglomerate in said pre-filtration layer becomes gradually smaller toward the direction of filtration, said precision filtration layer comprising one or more non-

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woven fibrous agglomerates, and the diameter of fibers which account for 10% by weight or more of the fibers in said one or more non-woven fibrous agglomerates in the precision filtration layer being smaller than the diameter of the fibers having a smallest diameter in said pre-filtration layer, and said support layer being formed with a non-woven fibrous agglomerate in which at least a part of the fibers are bonded by heat treatment, and the diameter of the fibers constituting said non-woven fibrous agglomerate in said support layer is larger than the diameter of the fibers in said precision filtration layer.

42. (Amended) The filter of a high accuracy according to claim 38 wherein a ratio of a smallest diameter to a largest diameter of fibers in the non-woven fibrous agglomerate of said pre-filtration layer is 1:2 to 1:10.

43. (Amended) The filter of a high accuracy according to claim 38 wherein a ratio of the diameter of fibers in one of the non-woven fibrous agglomerates of said precision filtration layer, which comprises fibers having a diameter smaller than that of fibers having a smallest diameter in said pre-filtration layer, to a smallest diameter of the fibers in said pre-filtration layer is 1:1 to 1:20.

46. (Amended) The filter of a high accuracy according to claims 38 wherein one of the non-woven fibrous agglomerates of said precision filtration layer, which comprises fibers having a diameter smaller than that of the fibers having a smaller diameter in said pre-filtration layer, comprises glass fibers.

Please insert the following new claims 55 and 56 into the application:

55. (New) The filter of a high accuracy according to claim 1 wherein said precision filtration layer comprises the same type of a non-woven fabric as that used in said pre-filtration layer and a non-woven fabric other than the non-woven fabric used in said pre-filtration layer.